

Annual Report

(April 2017 to March 2018)



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH CENTRE

St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society

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Human Development and Research Centre (HDRC) is a registered non-government organization working under the aegis of St. Xavier's Non-Formal Education Society (SXFES) since 1977.

HDRC is committed to ensure social justice and equity based development of deprived communities, articulate and raises their issues, fighting social exclusion and discrimination by empowering the poor and marginalized. The Centre strives to develop CBOs, methods and tools to articulate the voices of deprived in collaboration with various stakeholders. HDRC contributed significantly in area of Human Rights, Social Justice, Governance and Microfinance with community mobilisation, organization, research, legal action, advocacy with the state and creating people's movement of the marginalized/ discriminated / excluded communities to achieve social justice and dignity within the human rights frame work and democratic mechanisms of the Indian Constitution.

Vision

To carry out its mission, HDRC combines two important aspects of developmental strategy:

1. Active involvement and direct intervention at the grassroots level with Right based, Empowerment and inclusion approaches;
2. Conceptualizing major strategies based on 'Action – Reflection – Action cycle' or 'knowledge based action', in which caste, class, gender, poverty and illiteracy are cross-cutting frameworks used for analysis through academic courses, research, training and critical reflection.

Mission

"The Human Development and Research Centre is a secular, non-denominational, voluntary organization which exists to empower marginalized communities, particularly Dalits, Tribals, OBCs, Minorities and Women of these communities to bring about social change, by conceiving and conducting programmes of an educational nature, facilitating people's movements and creating sustainable livelihood options".

Strategy

To carry out its mission, HDRC combines two important aspects of developmental strategy: active involvement and direct intervention at the grassroots level through community organizing; and conceptualizing that involvement through research, training and through critical reflection.

Key Roles:

- Strengthen Community Leadership among Dalit/ Tribal/ Women/ Marginalized/ Urban Poor through POs/CBOs
- Institutional support to address human rights violation through capacity building of human rights defenders and CBOs.
- Collaboration and Networking for policy advocacy with various platforms at state and national levels.
- Initiating innovative social intervention at the grassroots levels to respond to specific emerging situation

Functional Areas

- Ensuring accountability in local governance, social justice and social inclusion of Dalits and other marginalized sections of the society in political institutions and their development.
- Promoting unity among Dalits and marginalized communities - Advocating issues of disabled persons, single women and destitute to demand their rights through their forums.
- Building collectives of urban poor to ensure housing rights and other rights and entitlements.
- Supporting Adivasis (indigenous people) to fight for their right over forest land and to cultivate forest land and for development there with the help of government run programs
- Networking with other like-minded NGOs and activists to make collective efforts and advocate, influence policy level changes for rights of the marginalized.
- Empowering Women through Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies and by ensuring land rights to women and improving their livelihood.
- Ensuring right to education for marginalized communities and enhancing the learning ability of children from Valmiki community and Adivasis.
- Building skills of marginalized youth for improved opportunity for employment.
- Conducting research to plan development interventions and advocacy measures through creating database.

Current Programs

- Ensuring Rights and Entitlements of the Urban Poor and Inclusive Urban Governance in Ahmedabad city
- Effective Organisations and Decisive Leadership of Dalits, Tribals, Women and Marginalized Communities in Rural Governance for rights and social justice
- Women's Empowerment

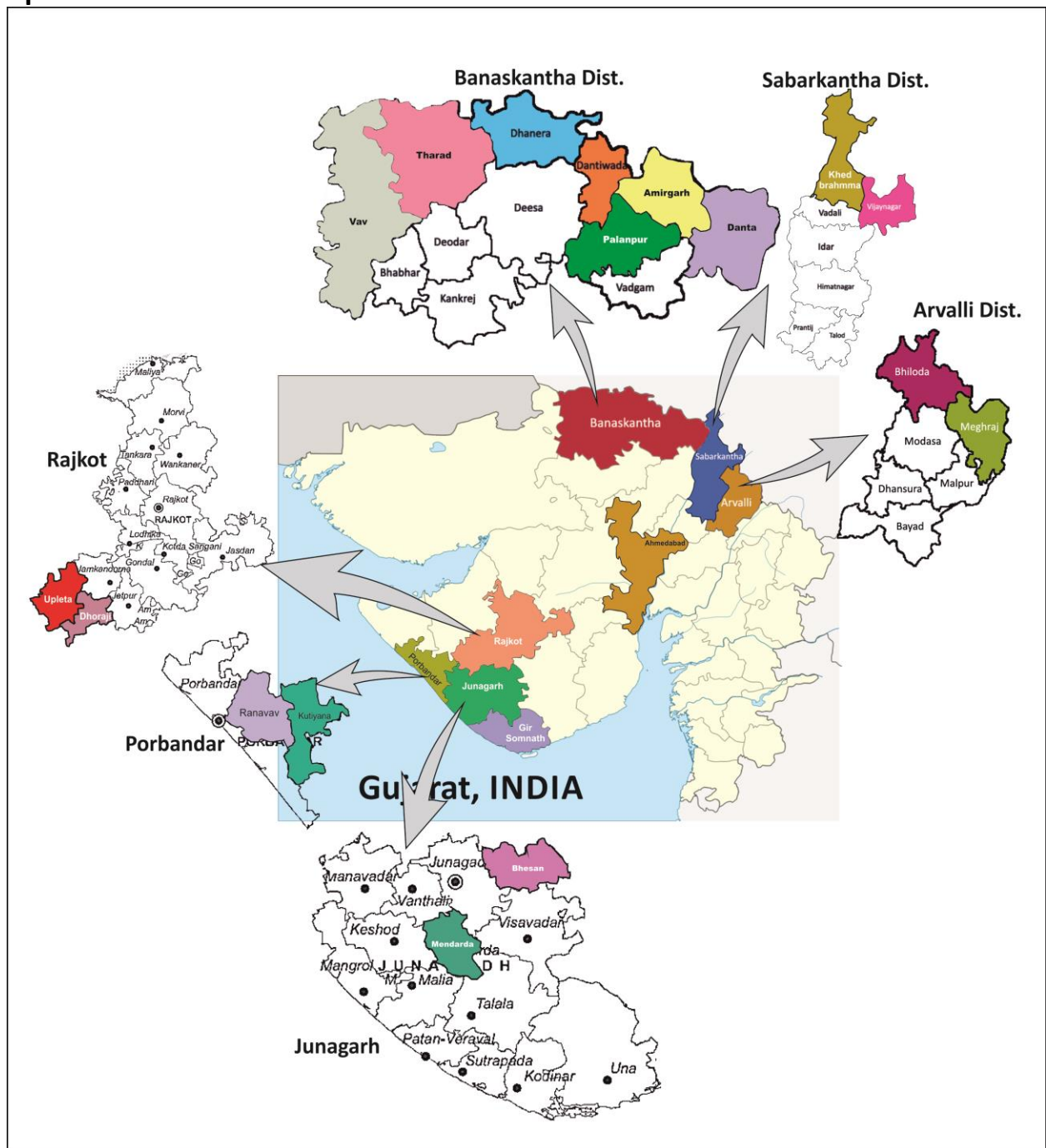
- ➔ Skill Development program for youth from Marginalised Community
- ➔ Ensuring Right to Education (RTE) and enhancing learning ability of Valimiki and Tribal children
- ➔ Inclusive monitoring and Rehabilitation of flood affected in Banaskantha District
- ➔ Research and Training
- ➔ Academic programs and internships

Target Group:

HDRC is working for development, rights and empowerment of Dalits, Tribals, Other Backward Classes, Religious Minorities, Women, Children and Adolescents girls.

Program	Project	Area
ENSURING RIGHTS OF THE URBAN POOR	Ensuring Sustainable Housing, Health, Education and Livelihoods for urban poor	40 slums of Ahmedabad
	Empowering Valmiki Community in the Ahmedabad City	
INCLUSIVE RURAL GOVERNANCE	Decisive Leadership of Women and Marginalized Communities/ Monitoring the Implementation of the FRA	220 Villages
	Promoting Effective Organization's People Leadership Equity, Solidarity and Justice (PEOPLESJ) Program	150 Villages
WOMEN'S RIGHTS / EMPOWERMENT	WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES IN GUJARAT	29 Co-operatives
	SWA BHOOMI KENDRA (Women's Land Ownership Rights) (Meghraj & Bhiloda)	2 Talukas
ENSURING RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN	LEARNING AND MIGRATION PROGRAM (LAMP)	70 Villages
SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES	Skills to Succeed (3 centers in Ahmedabad, Palanpur and Halol)	3 centres
	Enhancing Learning capacity of Valmiki children (KILOL Camp)	40 Slum of Ahmedabad
RESPOND TO EMERGENCY	Inclusive monitoring of rehabilitation and relief of Banaskantha flood affected people	Dhanera

Operational Area:



1. ENSURING RIGHTS OF THE URBAN POOR

Ensure a dignified life for city slum dwellers with opportunities to grow and prosper, fulfill their democratic rights and duties and get acknowledged as an integral part of the society through a cadre of City Makers who are volunteers working in the area and the community.

Strengthening Collectives of Urban Poor for Securing Rights and Entitlements

Goal:

The urban poor live with dignity and as an integral part of the urban society, decisively participating in urban governance, with equal and equitable access to entitlements, civic services, social security and sustainable livelihood.

Organize urban poor and take up issues of development and governance

- Organized 119 men and 195 women (62% higher than men) in collectives from 18 slums.
- 13 out of 18 slums have taken up issues of development in this year.
- 72 leaders from these 18 slums are identified; built their capacity. Now they are representing the slum community to secure equitable development (basic amenities, civic services and housing rights).
- Cadres of community facilitators and volunteers have been prepared with the knowledge and skill to build collectives and enabling leadership to work towards rights and entitlement even after the project ends.

Formation and strengthening the slum collectives to take systematic action and engage with the local governance agencies and other policy makers

- 70 leaders (41 women, 29 men) from 18 collective emerged and attended training programs on various government schemes and AMC budgets.
- As per the details given below, 18 area collectives formed and are assisting local people in accessing government schemes, their rights and entitlements.



Sr.	Area	Leaders			Members		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1	Kalapinagar	2	2	4	8	13	21
2	SaherKotda	2	2	4	7	13	20
3	Sonariya Block	2	2	4	4	6	10
4	Vatva	1	2	3	2	19	20
5	Khodiyarnagar	1	2	3	6	13	19
6	Memco	1	3	4	5	15	20
7	Civil	2	2	4	5	20	25
8	Sabarmati		4	4	5	25	30
9	Chandkheda	2	2	4	10	20	30
10	Eid Gah	0	4	4	3	22	25
11	Odhav –Char Maliya	2	2	4	9	4	13
12	Ajit Mill	2	2	4	9	4	13
13	Mochi Ni Chali	2	2	4	8	3	11
14	SukhiPura	2	3	5	8	3	11
15	Janata Nagar	2	2	4	7	4	11
16	Maya Nagar	2	1	3	9	2	11
17	Kailash nagar	2	2	4	6	5	11
18	Umiyanagar	2	2	4	8	4	12
Total		29	41	70	119	195	314

Collectives are oriented and are strengthened to address issues faced by the urban poor

- ➡ 58% of issues solved in 7 project locations; intervened by the collectives' i.e. Drainage lines (Sewerage lines) well equipped in 2 slums out of 2, drinking water facilities improved in 2 out of 5 slums, Sufficient Street light in 2 out of 4 slums, Garbage Collection in 1 out of 1, Applied for Roads, Stone Paving facilities in 7 out of 12 slums.

Stopped demolition in Amraiwadi and Sabarmati Slums

- ➡ Around 200 families in both the slums were about to be evicted by the AMC and notices were issued to the residents to vacate the place within 7 days. As per notice they informed that the land belonged to the AMC and they wanted to widen the road for further development of these areas. Collectives of both the slums provided legal guidance and they are prepared to file case in High Court if the AMC do not renounce their notices.
- ➡ Leaders of the collective approached the Deputy Commissioner and submitted an application to stop the evictions.
- ➡ Adequate ration distributed from FPS to the families of Sukhipura area.

- Under ICDS, Anganwadi Centre restarted in Shyamji krushna Verma area.
- 90 persons got essential documents like ration cards (12), Aadhar cards (93), PAN cards (2), MA (Mukhya Mantri Amrutam Scheme) cards (3), Construction labour worker cards (36), Election cards (9), Income certificates (10).

Leaders of collective strengthened to represent the issues at various forums, voice their demands, submit claims and secure their rights and entitlement

- 96 collective leaders and members (33 women, 63 men) visited Government Departments for submission and follow up of their demands
- 13 leaders used their knowledge in practice i.e. submitting of applications during the reporting period.

Slum leaders from each collective are enabled to prepare area development plan and demand for budget allocation

- Total 12 trainings programs were organized for leaders of collectives to enhance their knowledge and skills.
- Meetings of collective leaders with Councillors and local government officials have been organized regularly every month.
- Workshop on preparation of Area Development Plan by City Civil Engineer was held.

Establish effective collaboration between community collectives, government officials, elected representatives, CSOs and CBOs

- Quarterly and periodically networking meetings with AAZ (Awas Adhikar Zumbesh); AKSM (Amdavad Kamdar Suraksha Manch) the CBOs of the urban poor of slums of Ahmedabad city and with Manav Garima – CBO of Manual Scavengers, HRLN (Human Rights and Law Network of Lawyers) for issues of housing, labour workers and of the sanitation workers in the city.
- 28 individual applications by Ghoda camp habitants, 1 application for illegal encroachment by AMC in housing plots in Mochi Ni Chali submitted as per the guidance given by the advocates.



Capacity building of project team to build capacity of slum collectives, leaders of collectives, CBOs and CSOs

- ➡ Staff and Community Facilitators are equipped with enhanced knowledge of various schemes, acts and urban policies and skills of mobilization, conducting collective meetings, negotiation with the government officials and documentation and that has supported them in carrying out the planned activities during the reporting period.

Other activities

- ➡ 13 common and 28 individual applications drafted and submitted to respective officers in AMC.
- ➡ 40 online admission forms for class 1 in private school submitted, all of them got admission.
- ➡ 20 scholarship forms submitted, all of them availed scholarships.
- ➡ Training organized on “NULM and its livelihood schemes under SHGs” by UCD officer on 9/5/2017 at HDRC. 39 Participants (F-23 and M-17) from 11 areas attended the training. The primary objective of the mission is to support the urban poor and vulnerable sections by enabling self-sustainable conditions leading to a healthier and more secure living. The programs focus primarily on health, education and housing. The mission enables social mobilization and capacity building by encouraging initiatives to form local level groups which work as a collective to better the situations. The training was focused on the challenges faced while forming collectives and discussed the problems that emerged. The volunteers and the leaders were encouraged to form groups and enable community mobilization in their respective areas. 3 women SHGs (Sakhi Mandal) formed in Girdharnagar, Keshwaninagar, Suejfarm under NULM.
- ➡ Workshop organized on “Leadership, negotiation skills” for both leaders of collectives and staff on 19.07.2017 at Astha, Udaipur, Rajsthan. Mr. Isudas Waghela was invited as resource person. Total 49 participants attended the workshop.
- ➡ Workshop organized on “Documentation and writing skills” for both leaders of collectives and staff on 20.07.2017 at Astha, Udaipur, Rajsthan. Mr. Isudas



Waghela was invited as resource person. Total 49 participants attended the workshop.

- Training on “AMC budget and its analysis” organized on 29.07.2017 at SXSSS, Ahmedabad, by Mahendra Jethmalani of Pathey. 35 leaders participated in the training.
- Workshop for collective leaders organized on 23.09.2017 at Gujarat Vidhyapeeth, Ahmedabad. Mr. Vijay Priyadarshi (City Engineer, AMC) was invited as resource person, 78 leaders attended the workshop.
- In collaboration with HDRC and SXSSS, training was organized on “Gender” by Geetaben Oza on 25.09.2017 at SXSSS. 48 participants (F-33 and M-15) from urban areas especially members of CBOs attend the program. The primary objective of training was to understand the issue of gender.
- Organised Area Sabha on 3.11.2017 at Kalapi Nagar. 49 local people along with Mr. Bipin Patel (Councillor) attended the same.
- Training organized on “Area Sabha, Ward Committee and Ward Sabha” on 9.11.2017 at HDRC. Mr. Dinesh Dabhi, Manager UCD was invited as resource person and 35 leaders of collectives attended the training.
- Consultation on Urban Governance organized on 6th January 2018 at Ahmedabad Management Association. Community leaders, representative of local NGOs, CSO and CBOs were among the 183 participants.

Media Advocacy: EWS houses have been allotted in Chamanpura area and there more than 60 residents of block no. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were facing drinking water crisis. The residents reported to the Corporation authorities but they did not pay any attention to their complaint. One of our animator took up the issue and submitted a memorandum to the Dy. Municipal Commissioner (Asarva Zone) on 8-9-2017 and asked them to do the needful as early as possible. Meanwhile she also approached to print media; resultantly the English newspaper

Ahmedabad Mirror published the matter. Then only the Dy. Commissioner swung into action and ordered Assistant City Engineer to go to the site and look into the matter.

Consequently new pipes are fixed and he also ordered that the residents should get

DB પંચ 4 27 સેપ્ટેમ્બર 2017

રેનબસેરા : શ્રમિકોનો વિસામો નહીં, NGO માટે રોકડિયો ધંધો

અમદાવાદમાં શ્રમજીઓ રાત્રિરોકડા કરી શકે તે માટે મ્યુનિસિપલ કોર્પોરેશને શહેરમાં 44 રેનબસેરા બનાવ્યા છે. 'દિવ્ય ભાસ્કર' એ મોડી રાત્રે આ રેનબસેરાની રિયાલિટી ચેક કરી. 44માંથી 28 રેનબસેરા 2 વર્ષથી બંધ છે, જ્યારે બાકીનાની હાલત કમજોરી છે. શ્રમિકોને રેનબસેરામાં આશરો આપવાની કામગીરી એનજીઓને આપેલી છે, પરંતુ આ સંસ્થાઓ માટે રેનબસેરા ખર્ચ રૂપિયા રબવાનું સાધન બની રહ્યા હોય, તેવું ચિત્ર વીપક્ષે છે.

મોનિટરિંગ કમિટીના નેશનલ રિપોર્ટમાં પણ રેનબસેરાની સ્થિતિની ટીક

રેનબસેરામાં રેનબસેરાની સંખ્યા

સ્થાન	રેનબસેરાની સંખ્યા	કોષ્ટક	કોષ્ટકની કિંમત
રેનબસેરા	44	28	3960
રેનબસેરા	28	28	256
રેનબસેરા	28	28	1021
રેનબસેરા	28	28	229
રેનબસેરા	28	28	200

શ્રમજીઓ અપી છે, નવેમ્બરથી ટેન્ડર ફરારો
મ્યુનિસિપલ કોર્પોરેશને એનજીઓની બંને કમિટીઓની રૂબરૂ આગમી રૂપમાં રોકડના તમામ રેનબસેરામાં માટે નવેમ્બરની ટેન્ડર ફરારોમાં બાકી છે. ડી.ટી. યોગેશ મેત્રા, અમદાવાદ, 24.9.17.

drinking water regularly by tank till the work gets over. Now the residents get the daily water.

90 area meetings were conducted in Allahnagar, Chepi Rog, Chamanpura, Girdharnagar, Chippa Society, Sewage farms, Keshvaninagar and Asarva areas for identification of the issues faced in these slum areas through a mapping process. The issues highlighted were related to basic facilities (sewage, water and toilet), Education, Employment and Cleanliness (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan), Budget, unoccupied government land, government housing schemes, NULM, NUHM around the slum areas, issues of government documents and proofs, etc. This was an introspection process carried out to understand lack of facilities in the slum areas.

Night Shelter Home

Homeless people who have either no shelter for night stay or people coming from rural or tribal areas in search of employment, resort to Shelter Homes to spend the night. Shelter homes have been run by the government for such people, but their situation is very worrisome. Following efforts were made to improve these shelter homes:

- ➡ Basic facilities have been made available in 9 shelter homes i.e. Shahibaug, Memko, Girdharnagar, Chamunda Bridge, Saibaba, Saraspur, Shahibaug Under-bridge, Krishnanagar and Naroda gam.
- ➡ During the monitoring of shelter homes, it became known that shelter homes at Memko, Shahbaug, Naroda, Shivranjani have problem of electricity connection, water supply, toilet and basic facilities. Most of the people who came there were drunk.
- ➡ Leaders raised all the issues mentioned above in front of the UCD officer. As a result, he immediately issued orders to make arrangement for drinking water and cleanliness.
- ➡ Two closed shelter homes reopened at Girdharnagar and Navrangpura.
- ➡ Total 41 Rain Basera's are run by AMC but out of them 23 were not functioning properly.

Flood Relief Work by urban team

The heavy rains and floods in Gujarat which began on the 24th July, 2017 led to significant loss of life and destruction of houses and property across the state. Not only rural Gujarat, but urban Gujarat, including mega cities was also highly



affected by the heavy rainfall. It is estimated that approximately 4.5 lakh of people from the state were affected by the floods, out of whom 218 people lost their lives.

Flood relief work carried out by the urban team is as follows:

Date	Name of the area	No of Families	Kind of Support
27th July-17	Suez farm, Chandola, Allahnagar, Chepi rog , Keshwaninagar, Surainagar,	535	Food Support
1st-3rd Aug-17	Chamunda Bridge, Suryanagar, Girdharnagar, Kalapinagar, Chimanbhai Bridge, Kalupur, Amraiwadi	555	Health camp was organized with GCS Hospital & Research centre. Check of the people were done regarding skin problem, viral- infection fever cough
5th and 6th Aug - 17	Chamunda Bridge, Girdharnagar, Kalapinagar, Chimanbhai Bridge, Kalupur, Suryanagar, Amraiwadi	Dry Food Packets - 253	Hygiene kit contains soap, hand kerchief, skin ointment, chlorine tablets, detergent powder, 5 kg rice and 2 kg Moong daal.

Empowering Valmiki Community In The City

Introduction

HDRC has been working with the Dalit community to address the problems they are facing and to enable them to fight for their rights and social justice. Since 2014, HDRC has been working particularly with the Valmiki community, the group which has been denied all rights and has been excluded from the benefits of development. Women and children of the community constitute the most vulnerable group and therefore HDRC decided to organize the women from the community, make them aware of their rights and entitlements, build their capacity, develop leadership and facilitate processes that will enable them to access basic services and schemes and to demand their rights and entitlements. As a result of HDRC's intervention women started getting organized in the form of collectives and also their awareness level has increased in the intervention area. They started realizing the importance of registration of birth and death, enrolment of new family members (daughter-in-law) in the ration card, the importance of education for girls. At times, they also participate in decision making. They started going out to meet civic centers for various purposes. They also became aware of ICDS (vaccination and nutrition) and began to understand the structure of government.

During the reporting period the focus was given not only on organizing women in the form of collectives but also to build their capacity so that they could access social, health and educational services for the community.

Strategy

- 1) Organizing in small collectives
- 2) Strengthening these collectives through training
- 3) Awareness raising events/activities/campaigns

Activities

Organizing and awareness generation

Through area meetings women were organized to form small collectives in 10 settlements of the Valmiki community in the city of Ahmedabad. They were made aware on various entitlements and social, health and educational services provided by the government. They were also informed on how to apply for these entitlements. The main objective behind this was to make them self reliant.

Strengthening and capacity building of the collectives

Several trainings were conducted on topics like leadership, constitutional rights, human rights, advocacy, RTI, RTE, health schemes, and various schemes for SCs.

Review, Reflection and Planning

Planning and reflection meeting with volunteers and community leaders were held once in 4 months (thrice a year). These meetings basically helped to take in to account the progress of the project in the areas of intervention, know the present status of the collectives and if the leaders have come across any problems then help them or to facilitate in solving their problems. These meetings also helped in planning the future course of action.



Visits of city civic centers, AMC and government offices

Volunteers and community workers and staff paid visit thrice or 4 times in a month to city civic centers and Ahmedabad municipal corporations (AMC) and other government offices to collect and submit various application forms, collecting information on various

schemes and to build rapport between the leaders and the government officers and other authorities .

Activities with children

11 groups of children were formed. The members of the group select 2 boys and 2 girls as the group leaders. They met once a week. Apart from the weekly meetings the adolescent group also met on a bi-monthly basis. 3 trainings on leadership were also organized for the adolescent children, covering 7 areas which included Khokhra (13 participants), Amraiwadi (4 participants), Idgah (14 participants), Shankar bhuvan (10 participants), Vijay Mill (15 participants), Suryanagar (25 participants) and Makarba (8 participants).

Highlights of the outcome:

- Community's ability to defend its own interest and secure legal entitlements is improved through the coordination among the Valmiki women's collectives and other community based organizations, government structures, statutory committees and municipal corporation committees.
- Children's participation and child rights protection ensured in the community and by the educational institutes attended by the Valmiki children in these colonies.
- 11 groups of adolescent children were formed that comprises of 151 members (86 Boys, 65 Girls).

2. INCLUSIVE RURAL GOVERNANCE

Decisive leadership of women and marginalized communities in local governance for inclusive development and human rights

The project attempts to address the lack of decisive participation and leadership of women especially from Tribal, Dalit, minority communities and other marginalized and vulnerable groups in the local governance, their inability to set the development priorities. Through mobilising these groups, forming associations and enhancing their knowledge and information, capacity of women from Dalits, Tribals and Minority community and other marginalised groups will be built to exercise decisive leadership in local governance institutions. The project cover 12 blocks of the Dalit and Tribal areas as following:

No	District	Talukas	No. of Villages
1	Junagadh	Bhasan	15
		Mendrda	15
2	Rajkot	Dhoraji	15
		Upleta	15
3	Porbandar	Kutiyana	15
		Ranvav	15
4	GirSomnath	Veraval	15
5	Arvali	Bhiloda	15
		Meghraj	15
6	Sabarkantha	Khedbhramma	15
		Vijaynagar	15
7	Mahisagar	Sntrampur	15
8	Banaskantha	Amirgadh	15
Total			220 village

Overall Goal

Dalits, Tribals, Minorities and other marginalized groups especially women from these groups secure spaces in democratic decentralized governance, exert their leadership for inclusive development, social justice and human rights.

Project goal

Build capacities of Dalits, Tribals, Minorities, other marginalized groups especially women leaders and women elected representatives from these groups to engage with local governance institutions for inclusive development, social justice and protection of

human rights through legislative advocacy and interface with statutory bodies and justice system.

Activities

Promoting Taluka level association of social justice committee

Four rounds of Taluka level trainings were organized particularly in Dalit areas, in which a total of 392 Social Justice Committee (SJC) members participated. These trainings provided in-depth information of Acts and provisions in the constitution, roles and responsibilities of committee members at the panchayat levels, challenges they are facing and importance of SJC forum at the block level. Education material was distributed among the participants; they were shown a documentary on discrimination / atrocity and role of SJC at the village level. During the intervention, it was experienced that in 43 villages SJC committee existed only on paper and the people of these villages were running from pillar to post in the Panchayat office to form the SJC.

Formation process of SJC forum in Dalit areas was completed. Organized issue based discussion meetings for every Taluka. A total of 105 villages were covered in these meetings. After the discussion meeting it was clearly visible that, SJC members were reasonably aware about their rights and functioning of SJC. But still they were not equipped to take legal action against caste based discrimination violence/and atrocities. In 105 villages of Dalit areas, SJC member took responsibility to provide assistance for local people in filling the claim form of land rights. As a result, around 90,000 claim forms were submitted for allotment of government land, housing plot, forest land/other grazing land and crematorium land for dalits. Claim forms were submitted not only in working areas of the project but 28 other districts and 74 blocks in the state. Received remarkable success in land rights campaign through formation of SJC's in program area.

Experience

Due to lack of awareness among the PRI members including Dalit/Adivasi/Women members, SJC's are not able to function properly at the village level. In some villages, SJC is exists only on paper, in some places people do not know that they are members of the committee.

Activities carried out:

- So far, training was provided to 466 SJC committee members from seven blocks. They were made aware of their roles and responsibilities. Some of them are

enabled to pass resolutions regarding government schemes, housing plots, burial ground/cemetery, community hall etc.

- Forum members have started organizing meetings every month to resolve issues related to the deprived community at their village level.
- After the intervention and training, the local leaders of these villages now submit memorandums to the concerned authorities to solve issues of the deprived community through SJC.
- Succeeded in formation of SJC's forum in program area and established land rights movement across the state. The SJC forums have been provided with a platform for landless and deprived people to raise their voice and demand fundamental rights of land.
- The state government has invited members of local organisation for discussion and negotiation on land rights movement.
- With the efforts of local organizations and SJC formation, 16 Dalit families have been allocated agriculture land in their village, in Porbandar.

Challenges:

Due to caste system, there are many challenges that the SJC committee faces. First of all, if the members organize a committee meeting in 3 months, Talati does not cooperate with them. In spite of this, if the committee passes a resolution then the Sarpanch who belongs to the upper caste does not accept that resolution.

The SJC committee members belong to scheduled caste/tribe. The dominant caste members go against them when they raise their voice in Panchayat and village. Therefore, it is very difficult for SJC committee members in village level to constantly raise issues and their voice.

Activating and Promoting PRI Members Including Women Sarpanch:

The 73rd amendment has given political representation to Women/Dalit/Tribal and other backward caste to participate and exercise their power in local governance. Through this act marginalized communities have ensured their participation in the development process.

The three round of Taluka level training for PRI members completed in program area. Members have been made aware of 74th amendment act, role and function of PRI members in village development issues faced by women PRI members, the need and importance of women Sarpanch association etc.

Success

1. A women Sarpanch got success in getting the street light, road and water pipeline sanctioned for the Dalit area of Kutiyana Taluka in Porbandar district, as well as she has managed to organize a Gram Sabha in the presence of most of the women members.
2. The Dalit Sarpanch, along with all the women members, discussed the issues of women and made collective efforts to resolve these questions of women in Dhoraji Block of Rajkot District.
3. To implement the PESA Act, women Sarpanch of tribal area organized Faliya (lane) wise Gram Sabha in Bhiloda taluka.
4. Women members of Panchayat conducted Gram Sabha for availability of water and to make the water committee functioning actively in Khedbrahma.
5. Formed Taluka level association for women Sarpanch in Dalit and Tribal areas.
6. Cluster level village leaders and Gram sabha members made representation for regular opening the government primary health centre in Meghraj taluka.
7. More than 50% women members attended the Gram Sabha and have participated in decision making process in Megharaj taluka.

Challenges

PRI members mainly women Sarpanch have been facing many challenges. Still there is patriarchal system and caste based discrimination in panchayat. There are three cases in Dalit area where upper caste (so called) panchayat members passed no-confidence motion against the Dalit women Sarpanch. Due to illiteracy in tribal area, PRI members particularly women Sarpanchs have to face more difficulties in passing the resolution/budget and making the minutes of the meetings.

Implementation of PESA Act In Tribal Areas

The implementation of PESA Act is important for development of tribal areas. Four rounds of Taluka level trainings and 55 village level meetings have been organized so far. In these meetings, discussions were held on Provision of 5th schedule and power of Gram Sabha under PESA Act. As a result of the intervention efforts, village level leaders have shown their interest to organize Gram sabha according to PESA. Further training was provided to leaders of 3 selected villages from each block on how to pass resolution, constitute the committee and make the village development plan. Organizing Gram Sabha in program area is an ongoing process.

Success

- ➔ Applied dialectical empowerment framework for empowering PESA Gram Sabha. Members of the Gram Sabha especially women were made aware of the core issues like natural resource management and livelihood. For example, in Bhiloda block, Ansoal/Badmer and Budhrasan villages are conserving their natural resources like forest, water, soil, land and fossils fuel etc. (Ongoing process).
- ➔ Formed “North Gujarat PESA Action Group” and this group is mainly made of tribal civil society actors like teachers, doctors, lawyers, retired government servants and volunteers. The objective of this group is to provide support system in implementing of the PESA act in tribal areas. Every week a group of people visits villages and had discussions with local people about tribal culture, their problems and right based solutions.



Challenges

- ➔ There is risk in implementation of PESA in tribal areas because the 73rd amendment and PESA Act both are simultaneously applicable. As per both the acts, decision making power is given to Gram sabha. So people are confused which Gram sabha is taking the right decision.
- ➔ As per the provision of PESA, formation of natural resource management committee is mandatory in each Gram sabha but local people are not aware of this provision. Taking advantage of lack of knowledge private and government stakeholders in their own are way (mis)using the natural resources. When some leaders raise their voice against this type of malpractice, conflict or violence happen between tribals and sand mafia and other similar groups with vested interests.
- ➔ The government is not willing to implement PESA in tribal areas because there is an inherent risk that the power will go to the local people and they will be able to speak against the vested interests of the state.

Study on Review of Compliance in 73rd amendment, PESA, RTI, RTE, PWDA, POCSO and Atrocity Act

Review of compliance study conducted to examine understanding level of various acts based on qualitative method and Focus Group Discussion. Program area is bifurcated in three different categories of villages. A total of 36 villages with Dalit dominated areas and 21 Tribal areas were selected.

Training of Trainer (TOT) On Different Acts PWDA, POCSO and Sexual Harassment of Women

The TOT training was completed in November 2017. This training provided in-depth understanding on different acts related to women and child and a total of 27 trainees participated. The training covered different acts and their provisions, act related cases and procedure of these cases in court and police. After the training, educators facilitated intervention in PWDA/POCSO and other women/child related cases in field area.

Success

- In Dalit and tribal area two cases of child sexual abuse (POCSO) came to light. The local leader has intervened with police and child help line/child welfare committee to protect the children's rights.
- Domestic violence is a common issue in many Dalit and tribal areas and after these trainings women leaders have organised village meetings and intervened in the domestic violence related cases in village.

Intermediary Linkages with Statutory Bodies & Legal Institutions

In the Dalit and Tribal areas, specifically women and children have been facing violence, sexual abuse and harassment. To address this issue a meeting was organized with State Women and Child commission and a complaint report was submitted. After that, a public consultation was organized to sensitize the people, in which 177 people participated from different parts of Gujarat. State Women Commission members, women lawyers, policy makers, professors and retired chief justice of Gujarat High Court were invited for the consultation. Regional and national media advocated the issue, as a result of which the police filed a report against the perpetrator for torturing dalit women in Junagarh. Taking notice into the matter State Women Commission issue guidelines to police department to not delay the registering of complaints in any case particularly related to Dalit women and child.

Other Activities

Workshop / Consultation on CAMPA Act 2016

16-17 February 2018: In collaboration with various state level institutes, organized a state level consultation on CAMPA act, in which 154 persons from across the state participated, 18 of them were tribals.

As the forest rights struggle continue on ground the tribals and forest dwellers face a new threat in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 passed by the central government that it is planning to implement. The CAF Act has been opposed by organizations of tribals and forest dwellers across the country as it proposes to transfer about 50,000 crore of accumulated fund to the forest department for doing compensatory afforestation. A major contention is that the CAF Act has no provision to comply with the FRA and no provision for getting consent of the Gram Sabhas. In the absence of safeguard mechanisms it is apprehended that implementation of CAF Act is going to lead to massive monoculture plantation in tribal lands thereby affecting their rights and livelihoods. There are already reports of large scale violation of land and forest rights in tribal areas by the CAMPA plantation. Women have been affected the most as their access to land and forests have been curtailed by the plantations. As per the CAF Act the fund can now be utilized by the forest department to relocate tribals and forest dwellers from the wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and tiger reserves which is a serious concern. These plantations have been raised by replacing natural forests causing destruction to the local biodiversity (including agro-biodiversity and food) and ecology.

After the workshop, tribal organizations have conducted one day cluster level meetings and decided to pass the resolution under PESA Gram Sabha against CAMPA act. The village leaders have also written letters to all the tribal Members of Parliament and tribal advisory committee against the implementation of CAMPA act.

Land Rights Legal Clinic

Beyond the program framework, the experience is that the marginalized group of people have been facing problems of land related issues due to lack of support from the local and state administration. They also tried to access their rights legally and they realized that legal procedure is taking more time. Simultaneously they have to spent more money and they did not have proper guidance/advice and legal support. It became very difficult to get justice in land rights cases.

Tribals see flaws in afforestation Act

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Tribals and activists who work with them are demanding that the CAMPA Act be repealed as, according to them, it violates the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and leads to destruction of 'good' forests. CAMPA refers to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Act.

The activists also alleged that instead of giving the CAMPA funds to gram sabhas, the government is giving them to the forest department, which in turn is using them for non-forest purposes.

Tushar Das, who works for community forest rights of tribals, said that by giving the power to the forest department to use the funds allocated under CAMPA, the authorities are allowing for the department to destroy natural forests and raise, in their stead, monoculture plantation.

"In many cases the Rs 50,000 crore that is part of the CAMPA fund is being used to trample on tribals' right to forests. Tribals across India are now demanding a repeal of the Act," said Das. He was part

The govt had said the amendments would be reflected in the law but that did not happen.

Tushar Das, activist

of a discussion on the Act's repercussions for tribals.

Whenever forestland is to be diverted for some other purpose, the agency seeking the land has to put up a certain amount in the CAMPA fund for afforestation. Since there was a problem with the use of funds, the CAMPA Act was brought into force.

"When the bill was in the Parliament, the opposition sought amendments to ensure it did not violate FRA. The government had said the amendments would be reflected in the law but that did not happen," said Das.

Gova Rathod of Adivasi Mahasabha alleged that in Sabarkantha, the forest department carried out plantation in violation of FRA, while in other places the fund was being misused to purchase bikes and cars for use by the forest department.

Free legal advice, guidance and support provided to the poor and marginalized community for land related issues through these land rights legal clinics. So far, land legal clinic organized in HDRC. 12 competent lawyers are providing legal guidance and advice in land related cases in these clinics. Advice has been given in 46 major cases at land clinic, out of which 20 cases got successful result.

Awareness Yatra in Field Area

Organized awareness generation program on land rights for Dalit and tribals. Under the campaign, IEC materials distributed among the 50,000 people. Organized block level YATRA with support of local organization, as a result, more than 1 lakh claim forms were submitted under the FRA. Successfully built network of Dalit and Adivasi organization at state level on the land issues.



Promoting Effective Organization, People's Leadership For Equity, Solidarity And Justice (PEOPLESJ)

PEOPLESJ programme is designed to empowering the leadership from the community and their organizations. The community leaders and their organizations either in the form of membership based people's organizations (POs) or community based organizations (CBOs) engaged with local self governance institutions and constitutional committees to improve their functioning (democratic, inclusive and accessible).

Objective

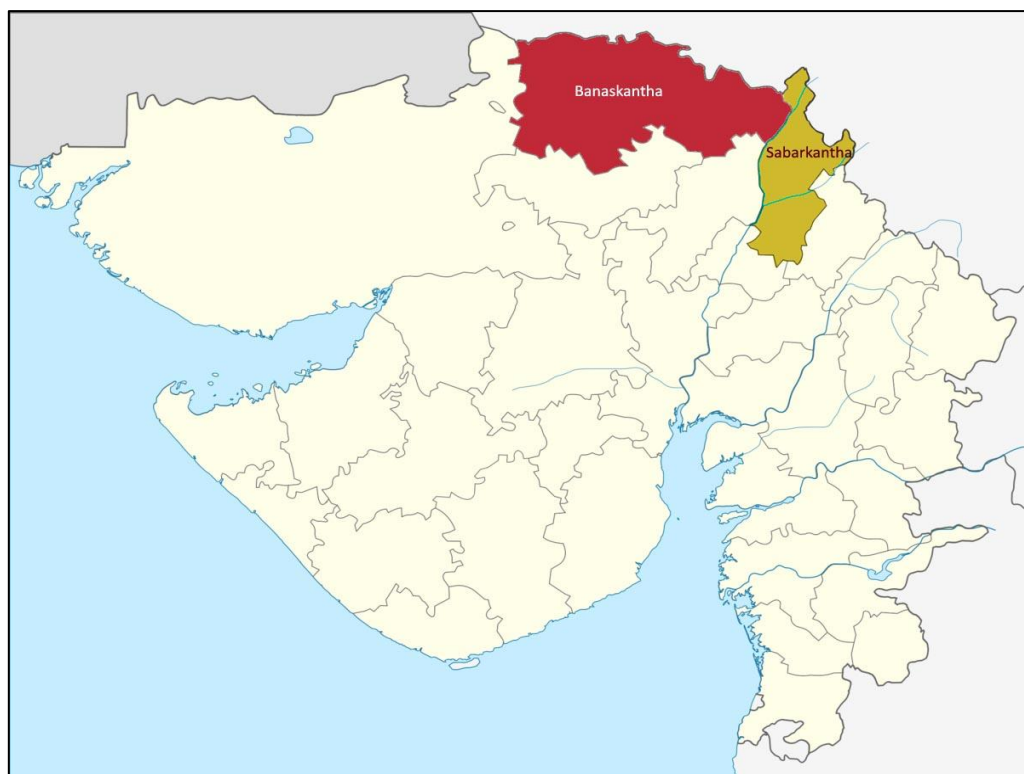
The overall goal/objective of the programme is "to strengthen/capacitate value based voluntary leadership and people's organizations so that they are able to influence/strengthen self-governance institutions and constitutional statutory committees which will lead to access rights, justice and development by marginalized communities".

The programme is being implemented to achieve the above objective through the following key strategic activities:

- Developing a capacity building programme for leaders and POs
- Capacity building of value based leaders (training, handholding and facilitating linkages)
- Promoting and strengthening POs / CBOs
- Setting up and strengthening village level / slum level working group of leaders, elected representatives
- Promoting and strengthening women's participation and their leadership through women's forum, and developing & operationalising plan of each JSC integrating gender concerns

HDRC Program Area

Under this program, HDRC is working in 150 villages of 6 Talukas of Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts. Project area detail and list of PPs and Social Animators is given below:



Sr. No	District	Taluka	No. of Villages
1	Banaskantha	Vav	25
2		Suigam	25
3		Tharad	25
4		Danta	25
5	Sabarkantha	Khedbrahma	25
6		Poshina	25
Total	2	6	150

Developing a Capacity Building Programme for Leaders And People's Organizations

The Common Learning & Process Team (CLPT) team has been formed to make the capacity building program effective and successful. The main role of the team is the planning and preparation of the programs to be organized, to review the organized programs, to provide training and preparing resource material for the stakeholders as per the requirement.



The capacity building programme was designed in such a way that more and more people could be trained & their writing, speaking, analyzing capacity enhanced at different levels. Three-tier training program system was adopted to get better results. First of all, training was provided to the PPs

and Social animator at the Central level. These trained PPs and animators gave training to selected voluntary leaders and member of POs at JSC level. Then these selected voluntary leaders along with social animators organized training cum meeting at the village level.

Social animators and some of the voluntary leaders have been prepared as trainers (TOT) to provide training at village level.

3 training programs, a one-day seminar and a two-days brainstorming meeting were organized during the report period at Central Level.

Voluntary Leaders are Capacitated and are able to Influence Self-Governance Institutions and Constitutional Committees

Various training programs were organized at JSC as well as village level. Voluntary leaders were given training about government structure, policy, rules, schemes, duty and functions of various statutory committees as well as public speaking, writing of applications, filing RTI, report writing, minutes writing etc.

As mentioned earlier, three-tier training programs system was adopted. First of all, trainings programs were organized and provided at the Central level, second at JSC level and then at the village level.

56 training programs were organized for 150 villages/areas of the program area, out of which **21 trainings** were organized for the members of the POs, **27** trainings for voluntary leaders, while **5 trainings** were organized particularly for women leaders. Through all these training programs and meetings, 10633 women and 7442 men have



been made capable by providing information on various subjects.

Social animators and voluntary leaders are being prepared in the form of trainers with the aim of spreading information to more and more people. This year too, **28 leaders** have been prepared as trainers (TOT).

At the local level, continuous collective and personal efforts have been made by the voluntary leaders to provide the entitled rights to the people.

In individual initiatives, local people have been provided the benefit of government schemes and basic facilities related to the government, as well as oral demand or applications have been made to improve the functioning of institutions related to local governance. This year **156 individual initiatives** taken by voluntary leaders to articulate the issues concerning community are as follows.

Taluka Name	Initiatives taken by Women leaders	Initiatives taken by Men leaders	Total Initiatives taken
Danta	3	20	23
Khedbrahma	2	26	28
Poshina	3	36	39
Suigam		16	16
Tharad	1	19	20
Vav	3	27	30
TOTAL	12	144	156

Collective efforts have been made by the group of local people in the leadership of voluntary leaders to resolve the local issues, oral/written applications are given to responsible officials. Efforts were also made to resolve local questions in Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat. **62 collective** initiatives have been made during the year.

Taluka Name	Collective Initiatives taken by women leaders	Collective Initiatives taken by men leaders	Total collective initiatives
Danta		7	7
Khedbrahma	10	10	
Poshina		14	14
Suigam		9	9
Tharad		13	13
Vav		9	9
HDRC		62	62

The capacity building program was designed in such a way that through various activities different skills developed among leaders. Some of the outcomes of these training programs are as follows:

- ➡ Clear understanding has been developed towards the responsibilities, roles, functions of the committees/agencies of local governance.
- ➡ Leaders have been able to conduct meetings and trainings focusing on the subject and in-depth knowledge has evolved.
- ➡ Trainings for identifying issues,



writing applications and filing RTI has been provided which enhanced confidence among leaders.

- ➔ Local people have started coming forward to join the statutory committees. The ability for asking questions to the concerned officer has developed.
- ➔ A better mechanism has now emerged with greater participation and collaboration both from the PPs and the SAs.
- ➔ In many places, people have begun taking leadership, initiative and started coming forward to address local issues.
- ➔ Clear understanding of the constitutional and fundamental rights has enhanced the confidence of the people at the local level. As a result, the sense of ownership has increased in people.
- ➔ Through the constant meetings and training programs, people have developed the belief that "the organization has power". This has led to the feeling of social integrity among the people.
- ➔ Some training programs were organized particularly for women, where they were made aware of the rules related to women, role of women in the development of society, domestic violence etc.
- ➔ The presence of women in the Gram Sabha has increased.
- ➔ Effective changes have been made in the functioning of the School Management Committee. Midday meals are now being supervised by the SMC members. Infrastructural facilities have been developed in many schools.

People's Organizations/CBOs Become Effective in Grass Root Advocacy and Having Internal Good Governance

It has been observed in evaluating the activities of the first year (2016-17), that in order to provide more effectiveness to the program, more efforts would be focused on the performance of people's organizations. In compliance of that this year special attention has been given on the functioning of the people's organizations, capacity building of its executive body members, ensuring practicing democracy, competence and participation of people in decision-making process of POs.

Attention has been paid to the people's organization by organizing various training programs particularly for the



executives and leaders of the people's

organization. They were trained for adopting democratic processes and collective participation in the functioning of their organization. Members were made aware of selecting issues, prioritizing the issues, setting the agenda of the meeting, conducting meetings and writing resolution etc. The understanding has been developed among members of POs that they are representing the community and all the people are with them. Mainly it was in the center of activities that the POs played the main role in addressing the local issues at Taluka level.

This year, **21 training programs** were organized to strengthen the existing structures of POs and 52 meetings were held with the people at the village/Taluka level. In these meetings, detailed discussions were held on various issues related to the community and the collective problems of the people. After discussions with the people, local issues were identified and raised before the authorities by the POs.

Sr.	Name of Peoples Organisation	No. of members in Organisation		
		Women	Men	Total
1	Dalit Sangthan – Tharad	6	15	21
2	Dalit Sangthan – Vav	4	14	18
3	Dalit Sangthan – Suigam	4	21	25
4	Aadiwasi Jan Jagruti Sangthan	10	10	20
5	Aadiwasi Jan Jagruti Sangthan	10	10	20
6	Aadiwasi Jan Jagruti Sangthan	10	10	20
	Total	44	80	124

In many areas of Gujarat, incidents of atrocities have taken place against the people of the deprived community. These organizations have strongly opposed the atrocities in the respective areas and have demanded strong action against the perpetrators. POs in rural areas have fought at every possible level for the proper implementation of Panchayati Raj, Forest Rights Act and PESA Act.

JSCs Name/Taluka	No. of Meetings Organized	Decision Taken	Action Taken	Issues addressed
Danta	7	4	3	2
Khedbrahma	9	8	5	3
Poshina	7	4	2	2
Suigam	9	7	2	3
Tharad	10	7	2	2
Vav	10	7	3	5
Total	52	37	17	17

Village/ Slum Level Voluntary Leaders Form Pressure Groups For Effective Engagement With Self-Governance Institutions And Constitutional Committees

School Management Committee (SMC):

Various trainings and follow up meetings were held for capacity building of committee members at different levels. Therefore, it was expected that the SMC will work more effectively. Activities were observed by the voluntary leaders during the engagement with SMC like members' participation in preparing school development plan, Members' initiatives in improving infrastructure facilities in the school and efforts made in improving the quality of education.

In the second year of the program, voluntary leaders have been engaged with school management committees in more than 115 villages. In 83 schools, committees or its



members have participated in preparing of School Development Plan, while in 80 schools the committee members have taken note of the infrastructure facilities or have attempted to improve the facilities. At the same time, while supervising the quality of education, members have tried to improve education quality in 102 schools.

Vigilance Committee

Efforts have been made to enhance the capacity of members of this committee through various training programs. Therefore, committee's performance observation by the voluntary leaders include; supervision of the cheap grain store, monitoring the quantity and quality of grains distributed, monitoring of stock register, distribution of grain to everyone without discrimination, timely opening the FPS shop and action taken against FPS owner on any discrepancy, if found.

Voluntary leaders have been engaged with vigilance committees of more than 113 FPS shops. Committees or its members have supervised 95 shops, while in 87 cases the committee members have taken action and approached the Food Supply Officer/ Mamlatdar in regards of discrepancies found at FPS. At the same time, while supervising the FPS, 72 matters were resolved with positive results.

Social Justice Committee

Training and various meetings were held for the SJC committee members. Therefore, it was expected that the committee will work more effectively in the interest of the deprived communities, along with the inclusion of issues pertaining to disadvantaged communities in the agenda of the Panchayat, besides making decisions on them, the committee will also ensure the implementation of those decisions.

By strengthening 23 committees, these committees were empowered, resulting in 16 committees taking up issues related to the deprived community. As a result of these efforts, positive results have been received in 14 cases.

Forest Rights Committee

Following the same procedures of empowering the committee members, activities were observed by the voluntary leaders like 99 community claims and 628 individual claims received by the committee. Efforts are being made by the committee members at different level to re-check the rejected claims as well as submit the supplementary information required in some cases.

Women's Participation and Leadership Is Enhanced In People's Organizations/CBOs and Village Level /Slum Level Working Group

Strong efforts have been made to increase the women role in local governance and to boost their confidence, so that they may take leadership roles in all aspects of their life at various levels. 21 training programs were organized particularly for women to develop awareness about the power of Sangthan, women's rights; gender equality etc. 1172 women participated in these training programs.



Availing benefit from government schemes

In addition to achieving the objectives set out in the project, the local people were helped by the voluntary leaders to get the benefits of various government schemes. 431 people benefited directly through this activity.

Sr.	Name of Scheme	No. of beneficiaries			Benefit in terms of amount
		Female	Male	Total	
1	Housing Benefit	13	45	58	41,76,000
2	Manav Garima Scheme	19	62	81	4,86,000
3	Land Inheritance	-	6	6	12,000/- Saving
4	Maa Card	26	-	26	5,200/- Saving
5	Widow Scheme	15	-	15	15,000/-
6	Aadijati Kit Assistance	-	40	40	1,20,000
7	Aadijati Boat Assistance	1	18	19	19,00,000
8	RDD Road	-	2	2	4,00,000
9	Gas Connection	15	-	15	3,000/- Savings
10	Tarpaulin	-	17	17	42,500/-
11	Ration Card	13	50	63	31,500/- Savings
12	Livelihood	-	32	32	9,60,000/-
13	Animal Husbandry	30	27	57	1,71,000/-
Total Amount		132	299	431	99,96,200

3. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

“To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves”. Thus, in order to achieve a better and inclusive society, it needs to transform its colossal women force into an effective human resource and this is possible only through the empowerment of women.

Reservation for women in the local governing bodies has ensured the presence of women but has not helped them to increase the participation of women in decision making processes or enabled them to articulate their concerns and make their ‘voices’ heard. There is a need to help women articulate their needs and preferences, to fight against the historical injustices and access their legitimate rights and entitlements. It is therefore important to educate women about their rights, build their capacity to demand for their entitlements, to prepare them for social and political participation and develop leadership amongst them to use the democratic spaces for redistributing power in their favour.

The overall focus of the women’s empowerment is to engage with women particularly from Dalits, Adivasi and a sizable number of Muslims communities to develop a critical understanding on their rights and to build their leadership through women’s Rights program with a focus on

- Empowerment through Cooperatives
- ‘Swabhoomi Kendra’ or gaining ownership and control over land

Women Empowerment through Cooperatives

The overall goal/objective of the project is “to strengthen the leadership capacity and organizational efficiency of 20 women’s credit cooperatives to address economic and social issues pertinent to the areas in which they operate”.

Background

The women’s savings and credit cooperative project over the past few years has sought to assist women’s empowerment, to accompany them in the process of capacitating themselves, and to strengthen the savings and credit cooperatives through institution building.

The women’s savings and credit cooperative project includes 29 cooperatives consisting of the marginalized communities of Dalits, Scheduled Tribes, and Minorities mainly from the rural areas. The project seeks to build the capacity of members to develop visions

for the future of their cooperatives, make decisions concerning the direction of the



cooperatives, resolve conflicts, negotiate and bargain, manage finances, self-monitor, recruit new members, network, and build relationships with the public. The project has sought to encourage autonomy and self-reliance of women and their organizations. The

hope has been to strengthen women's cooperatives so that they could become self-sustainable, both economically and socially, in terms of building competent leadership, and in becoming agents of change in favour of women's empowerment.

Program Area

Sr.	District	Taluka	Villages
1	Arvalli	Bhiloda	Bhiloda, Khiloda, Nana Kantharia
		Meghraj	Meghraj
2	Sabarkantha	Himmatnagar	Himmatnagar
3	Banaskantha	Palanpur	Palanpur
		Vadgam	Vadgam, Limboi
		Danta	Hadad
4	Kheda	Thasra	Dakor
5	Anand	Borsad	Borsad
6	Vadodara	Vaghodiya	Vaghodiya
7	Panchmahal	Jambughoda	Narukot
		Shahera	Sajivav
8	Chhota Udepur	Nasvadi	Gunetha
9	Narmada	Dediyapada	Nani Singloti
10	Surat	Umarpada	Chitalda
11	Tapi	Songarh	Mandal
		Dolvaan	Bardipada, Unai
12	Dang	Subir	Subir
13	Dadar Nagar Haveli	Selvas	Khanvel
14	Kuchh	Bhachau	Bhachau
15	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	Nari
16	Ahmedabad	Dholera	Dholera

Activities

The following activities were undertaken to strengthen the women's cooperatives:

- Women's Convention: A convention was organized on 6th April 2017 at Don Bosco Dakor where more than 428 women participated.
- On 3-5 April 2017, training program was organized at HDRC to prepare selected 27 women as trainer (TOT) from 13 cooperatives. So that, these women can also trains other women.
- Exposure visit was organized to Arpna Trust, Chandigarh on 13-15 September 2017 for the women of the 6 cooperatives.
- A training program was organized on 21-22 November 2017 with the aim of developing various capacities in the staff of the cooperatives, in which 49 women participated. This training was organized to train the staff of the co-operatives on using the Vayak Software, to connect the grass-root cooperatives with the latest technology available. The software enables them to get information on monthly savings, loans disbursed, recovery of loans, new members, details of cooperatives, details of villages etc.
- Central Resource Facilitators (CRF) training organized on 21-22 August 2018 for the 47 members of 17 cooperatives at HDRC. Mr. Sagar Rabari and Persis Ginwalla were invited as resource persons.
- Zonal training was organized for the various cooperatives of four zones, in which 139 women were made aware about various activities related to the cooperatives.
- Training programs were conducted at the cooperative level through which 347 women were made aware about various activities related to the cooperatives.
- Details of these trainings are as follows:

Sr.	Area	Date	Women	Facilitator
1	Dakor	24 th May 2017	12	Kailashben
2	Bhavanagar	31 st May 2017	25	Jenifer
3	Chitalda	28 th June 2017	32	Indiraben
4	Nanisingloti	29 th June 2017	22	Sr. Anita
5	NanaKantharia	7 th June 2017	25	Kailashben
6	Bhiloda	19 th July 2017	25	Maryben
7	Himmatnagar	16 th August 2017	25	Vasumatiben
8	Khiloda	29 th August 2017	38	Sheelaben
9	Meghraj	1 st September 2017	21	Sheelaben
10	Subir	28 th Sept 2017	84	Arunaben
11	Bhachau	14 th Nov 2017	38	Kusumben
		TOTAL	347	

The entire process of training was divided into four categories.

Economic

- Management of Cooperatives
- Financial Planning
- Documentation
- Computerisation

Social

- Gender
- Quality education for women
- Awareness of rights and entitlements
- Implementation of various government schemes and its benefits

Governance

- Awareness of Panchayati Raj (PRI)
- Women participation in PRI

Handholding

- Organising monthly meetings
- Women participation in cooperative
- Supervision by women

Outcome

- In the CRF training, women were given information about various schemes related to farming and land. As a result of training women started demanding land at the level of the cooperatives and the village.
- As a result of CMC training, rules and sub rules were made for the day to day work of the cooperative as well as suggestion invited from women for the implementation of these rules.
- The members of the cooperatives were made aware about the Goal, and objectives of the cooperative. Efforts have also been made to activate other members at the rural level.
- Members were made aware of how to increase the participation of women at the village level and how to add other women to the cooperative.
- District Registrar also conduct training, various problems faced by women members related to the cooperative were addressed/discussed. Information about the rules and regulations related to the audit was given in the Staff training program.

Swabhoomi Kendra (Women Land Ownership and Women Farmer Centre, Meghraj)

Land ownership makes women less dependent, and gives them the control to take decisions related to the produce, which in turn adds to the food security of the family. However difficult the situation may be, women generally do not sell or mortgage the land. They also use the income for the betterment of the family. Unfortunately, in India women do not have control over the land they cultivate. Even today, they are invisible workers on family farms or work as underpaid farmhands. Their position at home and in the community remains vulnerable, as they do not own productive assets.



To address this issue, HDRC runs the Swabhoomi Kendra at Meghraj which is supported by a state level network of more than 40 NGOs and CBOs called 'The Working Group for Women and Land Ownership' (WGWLO). WGWLO trains grassroots paralegal workers and these workers run the Swa Bhoomi Kendra (centers) at the block level. HDRC is member of this network. The objective of WGWLO is to increase women's ownership of land by facilitating the implementation of existing laws of the Government of Gujarat, influencing the government and non-

governmental agencies, including the media, to help mainstream the issue of women and land ownership and advocating for reforms in Government of Gujarat laws that hinder women's ownership of land in their name. WGWLO started the "Swa Bhoomi" campaign 4 years back. Later it also started "Swa Bhoomi Kendras" that are functioning as centers for legal literacy and to support women in issues related land-based entitlements and organic farming. Recently HDRC under the Swa bhoomi Kendra initiated work in 10 villages of Meghraj Block and 5 villages of Bhiloda Block.

Activities

- ➡ At present, 2 Swa Bhoomi Kendras are functional for 15 villages of 2 Talukas at Meghraj and Bhiloda, which open on Mondays and Thursdays every week.

- ➡ To meet the women and family members, paralegal workers visit door to door in each village. They collect information about ownership of the farm land.
- ➡ Awareness meetings are organized on “land inheritance” for widows and single women, in which 351 women and 182 men participated.
- ➡ In these centres, information related to land and organic farming is being given to women. Women are acquiring knowledge of advanced cultivation of farming here. Simultaneously, women are oriented towards getting their name added in the inheritance land.



Other Activities

- Group meetings were organised on “organic farming” where women farmers were the beneficiaries. 536 women and 233 men took part in these meetings.
- A campaign was organized to create awareness on organic farming among women farmers of 10 villages. As beneficiaries, 506 women participated in this campaign.
- Video shows were organized in 6 villages on organic farming, soil testing, ideal village. It involved 153 people participated.
- In 12 villages, training programs were organized for women farmers on various subjects like Sustainable Agriculture Development Training, Women farmer training-ATMA etc in which 403 people participated.

Sr.	Village/Block/Dist	Subject	Female	Male	Total
1.	Bayad, Vatrak	Women Farmer Training	25	4	29
2.	Navsari				17
3.	Surdevi				72
4.	Navaghra		50	20	70
5.	Ukrdi		70	5	75
6.	Zarda				19
7.	Navagara				19
8.	Navagara				30
9.	Nava Vavkampa	Sustainable Agriculture Development Training			30
10.	Arvali Dist				7
11.	Meghraj				35
12.	Meghraj Vasna	Women Farmer Training-ATMA	40	98	403

- 114 people participated in the training program organized by government for women farmers of 4 Talukas. Participants were made inform about networking with KVK, ATMA award and organic farming techniques etc.

- The women of the 5 villages were taken to Gandhinagar for the Exposure Visit, where they were taught about various techniques of organic farming, seed processing, SRI method etc.
- The names of 18 women have been included in the documents of land, out of which 13 are widow women. The total market value of this land is about Rs. 86 lakhs.
- This year, 114 women have registered their names as a farmer on the “I farmer's portal”, whereas last year 35 women had registered.
- 135 women have received the benefits of various government schemes after registering on the “I farmer portal” managed by the Gujarat Government.

4. ENSURING RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

In the northern region of Gujarat State, many tribal families are forced to migrate seasonally for work. Migration, due to lack of local economic opportunity has been the root cause of the children to drop out from the mainstream education and join the unskilled labour force. Thus, children are more vulnerable as they are forced to migrate with their parents.

Tribal children often face discrimination from teachers, majority of who are from a higher caste. Furthermore, poor quality of education and absenteeism and shortage of teachers in the region creates a difficult commute for students and makes schools hard to access. These factors, lead to high dropout rates among children of the tribal population.

HDRC's focus has been to ensure that children from marginalized communities stay in school and get access quality education.

Learning and Migration Program (Lamp)

To prevent the children from dropping out HDRC has been implementing the Learning and Migration Program (LAMP). The program focuses on building community participation to



improve the functioning of schools to provide quality education that is sustainable. The emphasis is to improve access of children to primary education, to retain these children till they complete their primary education; improve/enhance school governance and to ensure the delivery of high quality education. The project implementation is designed to impact the education system drawing on the strength of the existing formal structures like District Education Office and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and SMC.

Program Area

This year, program interventions reached to the tribal community of 70 villages (55 villages in Danta block of Banaskantha District & 15 villages in Poshina blocks of Sabarkantha districts).

Activities

To increase transition rate from elementary (Grade 8) to secondary (Grade 9) especially that of girls

Enrolment drive organized in 2 high schools for transition of children from 8th standard to 9th standard. Efforts have made possible the enrolment of 523 children in 9th Standard with 10 children (including 7 boys & 3 girls) remaining for the admission due to social and cultural issues, and effort are continuing to enroll the remaining children.

Before the enrolment drive, awareness campaign was conducted through loudspeaker by using local vehicle, display the name of children who are eligible for admission in class 9th through chart paper, provided transportation for children from feeder villages to high schools for participating in 8th & 10th June enrolment drive.



Improvement in school governance

Program activities on school governance has centered on holding meetings with SMCs in each village, alongside PRIs. These meetings encourage SMCs to engage with different issues in each of the schools, such as quality of education, improvements to infrastructure, the provision of drinking water and addressing sanitary conditions.

Campaign on girls' education (Focus on secondary and higher)

In 25 villages, it has been learned from the survey that 258 girls are eligible for admission or transition from 8th Standard to 9th Standard. Out of which 89 girls had doubt about their admission in 9th Standard. Regular meetings were conducted with parents of these 89 girls and convinced them to continue their daughters' education. As a result, 86 girls have enrolled in class 9th.

Form groups of adolescent girls' (Class 7-10)

Girls' Leadership Groups formed in 25 villages with the aim to empower girls by giving them a chance to learn about issues that affect their lives, enabling them to expand their social network and, in some cases, learning vocational and life skills including their ability to build confidence, skills and independence, and give them a vision of a bright future.

Community members helped in identifying the adolescent girls and in the formation of their group. There are 12-13 adolescent girls between the ages of 13 to 18 in each group.

5 meetings were conducted with the girl's groups in each of the villages. In the meetings, familiar environment developed to interact with each other and to share their responsibility towards group and village. Efforts were also made to build their confidence through open discussions and sharing of experiences. Responsibilities have also been given to each members of group to motivate their parents to continue their schooling beyond primary level.

Provide learning support to children of grades 9-10, focusing on preparation of Board exams at their Schools and/or LRCs

266 children from grade 9th & 10th are engaged in the secondary school by the facilitators of LRCs. Extra classes are conducted at LRC for the curriculum based subjects i.e. Science, Math and Social Science where the facilitators have worked towards increasing the children's conceptual understanding.

Activate 5 School Management Development Committees (SMDCs) and training to SMDC members on RMSA norms

4 meetings were held with 6-7 members (i.e. 2 guardians, 1 PRI member, one representative of ST category, one member of mahila dal and 1 or 2 teachers) of SMDC for capacity building on their roles and responsibility and for ensuring their active and effective participation in planning, plan preparation, monitoring and supervision of the school level activities.

Decrease the prevalence of child migration

This year, more than 80% children have been able to maintain regular schooling in the program area. Intensive efforts have been made to maintain database of the children of all 70 villages in order to track migration status, dropout, never enrolled and those who were eligible for the admission at the time of enrolment drive.

A migration survey was conducted in April 2017 to track 1001 children who are prone to migrate along with their parents within the state. The fact clearly came out in the survey findings that, 6 villages had immediate need for a seasonal hostel as there was a possibility that 159 children may migrate with their families. After regular meetings with community, SMCs had passed resolution demanding a seasonal hostel and submitted it in the schools. As the result, 5 seasonal hostels have been approved and are being run

by the SMCs to retain 130 children in school. Out of 1001 children 860 retained in the schools in the 70 intervention villages.

Seasonal Hostel

Successfully operating a seasonal hostel in Dantral, which has been open and functioning in a community hall. 30 children (19 girls and 11 boys) are staying in the hostel. The hostel has started functioning from the month of November 2017 with the help of community member, SMCs & PRI and citizen educators, who have been regularly monitoring and visiting in the hostel to ensure the proper functioning of the hostel. The primary focus is community participation in the whole functioning of this hostel.

The functioning and monitoring of this model has been an exemplary model that it resulted in monitoring of the other hostels in other villages as well by the SMC, citizen educator and community members. Government officials have also visited in this hostel and community member had meeting with them in the presence of SMC members.



As the result of the seasonal hostel, an attendance rate of children is constantly maintained. Government has approved 5 seasonal hostels and was successfully functioned under the supervision of the SMCs. Community and citizen educators regularly interact with the children and with the caretakers to ensure its proper functioning, and check in with SMCs on a consistent basis regarding their monitoring efforts.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

In the LRCs, numerous activities such as storytelling, science activities, sports, culture programme local plays, creative writing, arts and crafts, reading skills, developing understanding on surrounding environment etc. have been conducted through child centric teaching and learning processes such as active learning, group discussion, creative activities etc. The results have been encouraging and show positive impact on student learning. Summer camps were also organized for the LRCs children in order to

engage them with other extra-curriculum activities. 1677 children from grades 1 to 8 were engaged in all the LRCs.

In addition to the existing 4 LRCs, one new LRC at Beda village in Banaskantha District was successfully opened and is presently functioning well with the support of the community, which is helpful in creating an enabling environment for the continuation of the LRC in the village. These LRCs serve as a nodal point for encouraging children to continue their education, alongside providing benefits to the surrounding schools in the area in the form of academic support.

All 5 centers are equipped with learning materials that address the learning needs of children across grades. Resources materials such as science kit, dictionary, laptop, plays, motivational videos, storytelling books and learning materials have been provided in order to assist school children between classes 1-8.

Bal Mela

Organized “Bal Mela” in 70 primary schools in the intervention villages. Children participated in various activities such as sports, fun games and other cultural competitions. Sports activities included Frisbees, athletics and some local sports. Cultural activities included debates, storytelling, and arts & crafts. The winning candidates of various competitions were awarded the prizes at the end of the program.

Parents were also invited to participate with their children, in order to create awareness towards value of education and encourage bonding between families. These events also encouraged parents to take an awareness and interest in the progress of their children in LEP classes. It also provided an opportunity for the parents to talk to the teachers in order to discuss any issues their children may have, if any.

Skills to Succeed

Skills to Succeed is a livelihood project, which based on the retail domain, and its objective is to provide opportunities to do a meaningful job as well as to know work ethics’ through a digital learning system.

Accenture is committed to equipping 250,000 people around the world with skills to get a job or build a business. In India, Accenture supports Quest alliance to create opportunities for training disadvantaged youth who have dropped out of school for socio economic reason or youth who are continuing their education but required skills and knowledge to hold down a job.

HDRC is one of the active partners of Quest Alliance since 2015 and is working in both rural and urban areas. In rural areas HDRC’s target area is Banaskantha district with a

focus on Palanpur Taluka, where HDRC is working on other issues such as women's empowerment, child education etc., and in urban areas it is working in Ahmedabad district. However the target group in both the urban and the rural area remain youth (unemployed or underemployed) between the age group of 18 -25 years.

Strategy

HDRC adopted blended learning approach which is a combination of digital learning technology and classroom activities. This model was strategically chosen to leverage the best technology has to offer while allowing the facilitators to bring their teaching and practical experiences into the classrooms.

The program focuses on skill up gradation of school dropouts who are seriously interested in learning for better livelihood opportunities. It is a combination of classroom activities and digital learning technology. It has several phases, which includes enrolment of the students, training, evaluating their skills, certification, and linking them with industries or retail sector.

Program Area

At present two centers have been running, one in Ahmadabad and second in Palanpur in Banaskhatha district.

Activities

Mobilization

This is initial stage to enroll our learners in the course. Mobilize the learners from the urban slums of Ahmedabad where HDRC is already working through our volunteers and from the working area of NGOs and CBOs. HDRC team interacts with the prospective students and their families. Mobilization strategy also includes distribution of pamphlet's on OJT, follow up on mobile, campaigning in slums, meetings at field level and approaching local leaders and sharing about OJT so that can also mobilize learners and through the student who have passed out of S2S and earlier batches.

Students are also mobilizing from outside Ahmedabad from other districts. This has been done through contact with NGOs and CBOs as well as in partnership with and through the HDRC team that works on rural governance programs in other districts with Dalits, Adivasi and other marginalized groups.

Training

HDRC have well trained team of trainers and placement officer who take sessions in classroom and engage with the students in other activities. The students attend

trainings and activities for 7 hours in a day. The module includes 132 hours LMS, 28 hours of course related activity as well as 70 hours of career development activity.

Meetings

Continuous efforts have been made to achieve the objective successfully through regular contacts and meetings with the various stakeholders of the program. Details of meetings are as follows:

- 1) Meeting with parents and with the youth/target group: it was observed that the key to mobilize and motivate parents and youth is meeting them in person or at times in groups. These meetings cover various aspects like how this programme will help them or future perspective, Gender discrimination, Importance of girl child, Importance of livelihood, Students' absenteeism, performance, feedback and suggestions and other important issues etc.
- 2) Meeting with probable employers: meetings were held with probable employers to organize exposure visits to their respective units. It was through these meetings that market scan activity was carried out. These meetings also helped in understanding the market requirement. Meetings were held with potential employers that include retail hubs /chains like Reliance Fresh, Big Bazaar, Vadilal ice-cream etc

A total of 16 meetings were organized with parents and youth and 7 meetings were organized with the potential employers.

Placement

After completion of training, the students are placed in different sectors as per their skills and area of interest. The process applied is keeping in touch with employers through phone calls, e-mails, meetings and finding out their current requirement and future requirements. For the reporting period, placement data is as follows:

Enrolled	Course Completed	Placed	Not employed	Dropout	Placement %
178	171	159	9	7	92.98

Post Placement and Follow-ups

After the placement it is also ensured that they get adequate payment package and their performance is as expected and follow-ups are done on their job regularity. HDRC keeps in touch with the students for at least 6 months after training through phone calls or personal interaction and then the database is updated based on whatever the feedback they provide on the employer and job satisfaction.

5. RESEARCH AND TRAINING UNIT

The Research and Training Unit of HDRC undertakes research that will enhance the existing base of knowledge they have around the centre's initiatives. Furthermore, the studies are designed to support the integration of newly discovered best practices into all of the programs. The details regarding the major activities within the reporting period is detailed in this section.

Research Programs

Baseline Survey for the Decisive Leadership Under Rural Governance Program Brief

Under the rural governance program of HDRC the program focuses on promoting and strengthening decisive leadership within the communities of Tribals and Dalits, with a special emphasis on women. The program also aims to increase participation of people in good governance practices within rural areas.

The baseline survey under this program has been able to capture ground level data of the village level institutional committees: the Water, Vigilance, School Management and Forest Committees, just to name a few. The baseline study is meant to help the team plan out their strategies, while addressing the issues of the various stakeholders: villagers, committee members, panchayat and government officials.

Baseline Survey for Urban Poor and Housing Rights Project (under the Urban Governance Program)

The Urban Poor and Housing Project under the "Urban Governance" program of the centre focuses on low income families living in urban areas and issues pertaining to their rights. Due to ever-increasing urban poverty and distress, the organization has expanded its work in Ahmedabad, with the addition of 21 new slums under the urban governance program. In developing meaningful and realistic interventions for these new slums, the research team needed a better understanding of the geographical location, the varying complexities within the region's land tenure laws, and other issues the slum dwellers felt were important.

The Research and Training Unit was mandated to carry out this baseline study of this burgeoning community. The study covered all 21 of the new slums of the city, with 446 respondent families. The study focused on the basic services the slum dwellers received; availability of government institutions in the immediate and surrounding areas; whether or not there was proportional representation within the area based committees of the

slum dwellers, and the slum dwellers knowledge and feelings around said representation.

Studies in process

Gender and Labour within Muslim women of Ahmedabad

The study focuses on understanding “a gender perspective of Muslim women” focusing labor as one of the component. Considering the work of HDRC with the minorities of the city and also considering a need for contribution in knowledge made the unit to take up this study. Major part of the country at present tends to have a higher effect of saffronization. This has limited freedom of many of the communities, directly or indirectly. As per the LFPR of the country, women of Muslim community are the lowest in number be engaged in the labor/work force. The percentage is lesser than that of SC and ST women. The study would try to understand the concept of labour within Muslim women, also the kind of labour they get engaged in and how their understanding of gender affects the kind of labour they are engaged in.

This study has been undertaken with the collaboration to Centre for Development, Ahmedabad. The process of Data collection is in progress.

Baseline Survey for the Land and House Ownership Program Brief

The next objective of HDRC is to perform a Land and House Ownership baseline survey in the near future. The main focus of this study will be to map the number of slum dwellers in Ahmedabad who have acquired ownership over their land. The results of this study will help the urban team further plan the interventions necessary to further support slum dwellers in acquiring their land. The design of the study is finalized, and remaining data collection processes will be undertaken in the near future.

Study reviewing Compliance of the Indian Constitution in Saurashtra and North Gujarat

The Indian Constitution is meant to be one of the most democratically written constitutions of the world, with a focus to protecting the rights of people. There are a number of policies that are designed to protect the citizens of India, their social rights and their right to live a dignified and safe life. In this regard, the constitutional rights, polices and legislations exist on paper, but there are many gaps in the implementation and compliance of these policies. The centre, under the decisive leadership programme, took up the challenge to gauge the extent of compliance within the important acts and their functioning in local governance.

The task of the research team is to understand the extent to which these policies were being implemented on the ground. The study focuses on the awareness and implementation of The Domestic Violence Act, The POCSO Act and The PESA Act, among others. The target groups for this study will be the village committee members. Qualitative and quantitative data collection methods will be employed to find out that awareness is lacking among committee members and villagers about the overall structures and functions of these acts.

The unit will also be implementing this study, with the same data collection methodologies, in two villages selected from each block in Saurashtra and North Gujarat. The study is expected to be completed by May 2018.

Program evaluation

Evaluation of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) of Ahmedabad, working on minority issues

The HDRC's Urban Governance programme is carried out through the networking of many CBOs within Ahmedabad. These CBOs are given inputs at regular intervals, in addition to trainings and feedback on their roles, working style and autonomy. HDRC works to support these CBOs in continuing to assess their work at the end of each annual year. These initiatives are designed to Monitor, Evaluate and Learn (MEL) which activities have been the most effective. It provides local groups the opportunity to learn, analyze their working style and in their monitoring and evaluation processes. The goal is to utilize these impact assessments for improvements in future planning.

In the last financial year, eight CBOs in Ahmedabad have gone through these MEL processes.

Pavitra Atma Sevika Sangh, Goeka Rajasthan

Pavitra Atma Sevika Sangh is a group of religious sisters that works in Goeka, Rajasthan. The group works to empower the Bhil community within the Goeka cluster villages. The HDRC Research and Training unit has been given the responsibility of evaluating the completion of this project, after 7 years time. As a part of this evaluation project, the unit visited Goeka, in February and March 2018.

Training Programs

Sr. No	Subject	Trainees	Trainer
1	Human Process Structured workshop	West Region IGSSS	Dr.Jimmy Dabhi
2	Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act	Students of Courier Development, Urban Team of HDRC	Priyanka
3	Gender	Students of Courier Development	Priyanka
4	Distress Migration in South Gujarat	Representatives of Tribal Community and Activists	Priyanka
6	Gender, Caste-Varna structural discrimination, and Valmiki of Ahmedabad city	Antyodaya Vikas and Sikhshan Kendra	Dr. Jimmy Dabhi
7	Safai Karmacharies issues of human rights violation and mobilization of various local and area Valmiki organizations.	Safai Workers of Gujarat	Dr. Jimmy Dabhi, Iswarbhai and Parshotam
8	Religious Sisters and Human Development in Gujarat	Governing Board of The Forum	

Academic

Sr. No	Subject	Group	Trainer
1	Research Methodology	Anand Institute of Social Work, Anand	Priyanka
2	Understanding Roles and Identities through Human Process Lab (Part of Organization Behaviour)	ISABS, IIM, Ahmedabad	Dr. Jimmy Dabhi

Publication:

Sr. No	Subject	Publisher	Writer
1	Gujarati translation of a Research study "Women's leadership and social transformation"	Gujarat Sahtya Prakashan	Dr. Jimmy Dabhi
2	Religion, Religiosity and Spirituality	In DOOT magazine	Dr. Jimmy Dabhi
3	Institutional Cultural Pollution in India: The Merging of Social and Organizational Cultures	In SOCIAL ACTION journal	Dr. Jimmy Dabhi

Workshops

Inclusion & Human Rights Perspectives in Development Action & Movements

The research and training unit has utilized reflective sessions on varying development, discourses and practices in Gujarat. These discourses and practices are implemented with various groups, campaigns and movements. Learning from their experience will give way forward to integrate these best practices into HDRC's initiatives and organizational culture. The director of HDRC has joined in these discussions, and the unit

has decided to organize a workshop with representatives of the different groups, campaigns and movements that should be with HDRC every step of the way.

HDRC has collaborated with these groups in a dialogue to learn how to stand together, instead of drag behind. The workshops also included critiques of these various discourses and practices, so that HDRC may be as comprehensive and inclusive as possible. Furthermore, the unit feels it is important to be critical of what is included, versus what is left out, in the efforts towards developing various communities. Around 51 representatives from different movements: LGBTQ+, Women's Movement, Labor Movement, Minority's Movement, Dalit Movement and Tribal Movement were a part of this workshop.

Overall objectives of the workshop:

- 🌱 Provide an opportunity to listen to different perspectives
- 🌱 Prioritize different issues: class (labour unions), caste, gender, sexuality, religion, migration and displacement, just to name a few
- 🌱 Engage in a process of intersectional thinking, feedback and learning from various campaigns and works.
- 🌱 Arrive at concrete and feasible steps necessary to increase networking
- 🌱 The inclusion of intersectional perspectives

Outcome of the workshops:

- 🌱 Participants felt the need for a larger gathering of groups and people across various sectors in Gujarat.
- 🌱 The presence of people from LGBTQ+ community was a highly valued addition for all the groups. They felt ready to be more open and include their rights in various perspective and practices.

Series of Interactions

The Human Development and Research Centre is celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017. As a part of this celebration, the Research and Training Unit recommended a series of interactions of present staff with the veteran HDRC staff (i.e. those who were working in the organization's early years, from 1970-1990). The objective of this series was to familiarize present staff with how the values and practices of HDRC have evolved over the years, and what the rationale was behind their approaches. The unit was given the responsibility to facilitate the whole series.

The table below mentions a list of speakers and sessions organized under this series.

Sr. No	Month	Speaker
1	March	Fr. Heredero, Mr. Vijay Parmar
2	April	Prof. Vijay Sherry Chand
3	May	Mr. Astad Pastakia, Ms. Persis Ginwala
4	June	Ms. Supriya
5	July	Mr. Matahi, Mr. Javed Ameer
6	September	Geeta Oza
7	October	Representatives of Daheda Federation and AVSC
8	November	Representatives of women's cooperatives

6. INCLUSIVE MONITORING AND REHABILITATION OF FLOOD AFFECTED IN BANASKANTHA DISTRICT

In response to the crisis triggered by the floods which took place in Gujarat after the 24th of July, 2017, HDRC collaborated with a number of civil society and not for profit organizations in providing immediate relief in the affected areas.

The heavy rains and floods in Gujarat which began on the 24th of July, 2017 led to significant loss of life and destruction of houses and property across the state. Not only rural Gujarat, but urban Gujarat, including mega cities were also highly affected by the heavy rainfall. It is estimated that approximately 4.5 lakh people from the state were affected by the floods, out of whom 218 people lost their lives.

The reasons for the flooding in each area differ and so does the impact on the affected people. The interventions of HDRC in collaboration with other organizations have focused primarily on the affected areas in Banaskantha, where 8 of the total 12 Talukas within the district suffered significant loss of life, property and agriculture land. Simultaneously, HDRC also focused on the urban Ahmedabad, in which water damage took place in a number of slums, and helped other institutions working in the Anand District.

Assessment of Needs

The flood situation required an assessment of needs to determine what was the relief work required in Banaskantha and Ahmedabad. The assessment of needs took place in two stages: an immediate assessment, to determine what was the level of the damage and urgent requirements were undertaken as soon as it became possible to reach the affected areas. After the initial 2-3 days, once relief work began, ongoing assessment of needs was undertaken to determine the extent of loss of life and damage to property, to be able to coordinate the relief work.

The overall assessment in Banaskantha was:

- More than 4,000 cattle died in Banaskantha district.
- The electricity supply to 753 villages was cut off.
- Over 370 roads, including six National Highways, and 153 State Highways and 674 Panchayat roads were flooded and closed for vehicular traffic.
- 80% of the villages of Dhanera and more than 30% of the villages of Kankrej were affected, and more than 10,000 families from these villages were hit by the flood. There was heavy loss of life, property and livestock.

Relief Operations

Relief work started almost immediately and continued side by side with the needs assessment. Even before the Government and not-for profit organizations reached the site of the floods, the people from the neighboring villages helped each other find shelter and food in this situation. The volunteers who reached the flood hit areas first, came across stories of villages which had not been affected, who decided to cook and send food to their neighboring villages that were flooded. There were heroic stories of people helping each other to reach safe places and supporting each other to survive.

Community and Civil Sector

Through the network previously established, a point person was appointed at the level of each village, and relief materials (like dry food packets, water pouches, vessels, blankets, clothes, medicines etc) were distributed by the volunteers of HDRC, of Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan and other organizations who contributed in the work. Coordination between the point persons, and ongoing assessment ensured that the relief reached the most underprivileged.

Local shopkeepers, petrol pump owners and other institutions like Lions club contributed in cash, provided relief material and cooked food and supported the relief work.

The immediate relief provided in the most affected areas comprised of:

- Drinking water, clean water and NaDCC tablets
- Tarpaulin sheets and bamboo for temporary shelters
- Blankets and towels
- Vessels and Non-food items
- Dry food, cooking grains, oil, salt, sugar
- Sanitary napkins and sanitary kits
- Milk powder for children

While the HDRC and BDS provided relief to all affected people, they took care to ensure that people from Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalized communities had access to relief materials, especially after other organizations began to provide relief, prioritizing privileged communities. HDRC and BDS also coordinated the relief distribution in Dhanera town and Dhanera rural to ensure that there was no duplication. The team constantly kept track of relief material that came in from different sources. They also maintained record of the villages that received relief and those that needed to be provided relief. This way they tried to ensure that real needy families received the relief and no one was excluded.

The HDRC team specifically, making use of its own funds and of funds contributed by various agencies such as AmeriCares, Adarsh Charitable Trust, Ahmedabad Kerala Samajam, Miseroer, American Jewish World Service, ALBOAN and the Province of Gujarat (Sj), Isabel Martin Foundation, Vikalp, ActionAid, IGSSS contributed to the immediate relief. At the local level, the teams divided themselves into routes, and reached each village. At the village level, they coordinated with the point persons and the volunteers there, who then distributed the kits.

In **Ahmedabad City**, immediate food relief was provided to 535 families in Suez Farm, Chandola, Allahnagar, Chepi rog, Keshwaninagar and Surajnagar. Health camps were also organized in collaboration with GCS Hospital and Research Centre, where checkups for skin problems, viral infection, fever and cough were a big help. This took place in the Chamunda Bridge, Girdharnagar, Kalapinagar, Chimanbhai Bridge, Kalupur, Suryanagar and Amraiwadi areas and reached 555 people.

Hygiene kits containing soap, handkerchief, skin ointment, chlorine tablets, detergent powder and 5 Kg of rice and 2 Kg of Moong Dal were also provided to 253 families in the Chamunda Bridge, Girdharnagar, Kalapinagar, Chimanbhai Bridge, Kalupur, Suryanagar and Amraiwadi areas.

In Banaskantha, the HDRC team worked in collaboration with the Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan and other organizations, to coordinate the distribution of relief work. Ongoing assessment of the situation took place, along with an ongoing assessment of the distribution of relief materials to those affected by the floods.

Tarpaulin, bamboo, food and vessels, blankets and milk powder were sent, using the monetary contributions and the kits provided by various organizations, to 43 villages in Dhanera taluka. In Dhanera town, similar kits were distributed to around 400 of the affected families.

HDRC kits with tarpaulin, blankets, vessels, bamboo, groceries and mosquito nets also reached 17 villages in Vav-Tharad, and 22 villages from Kankrej, Deodar and Babbar talukas.

Relief and Rehabilitation

HDRC and NCDHR, in collaboration with other institutions conducted survey of the reach of relief and rehabilitation specifically to historically and systemically marginalized communities (Dalit, OBC, Adivasi, Muslim, women etc.). The team that conducted the survey has undergone a quick training on damage assessment and inclusive monitoring, and side by side conducted the survey, they also helped the affected people by filling required forms to access Government compensations, cash dole etc.